



# City of Rowlett

## Official Copy

Ordinance: ORD-002-14

4000 Main Street  
Rowlett, TX 75088  
www.rowlett.com

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AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ROWLETT, TEXAS, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING ARTICLE I ("IN GENERAL") OF CHAPTER 6 ("ANIMALS") TO AMEND SECTION 6-2 BY REVISING THE DEFINITION OF "ABANDON"; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY OF FINE NOT TO EXCEED THE SUM OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00) FOR EACH OFFENSE; AND, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Rowlett, Texas, hereby finds and determines that the ownership of animals presumes a responsibility to the animal and to the citizens of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, many pet owners whose pets are impounded at the City's Animal Shelter, who are aware that the animal is impounded, deliberately fail to retrieve the animal, thereby imposing an administrative burden on City staff who must then attempt to locate an adoptive owner or euthanize the animal; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Rowlett, Texas, finds and determines that the definition of "abandon" should include a failure of a pet owner to redeem the pet from the City's Animal Shelter and that such amendment is in the best interests of the public health, safety and welfare.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROWLETT, TEXAS:**

**Section 1:** That the Code of Ordinances, City of Rowlett, Texas, be and is hereby amended by amending Section 6-2 of Article I, "In General", of Chapter 6, "Animals", by amending the definition of "Abandon" that precedes the definition of "Animal", such that the new definition of "Abandon" will read as follows:

**"CHAPTER 6. ANIMALS**

...

**ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL**

...

**Sec. 6-2. Definitions.**

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The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Abandon means*

- (1) leaving an animal in any place without providing reasonable and necessary care including, but not limited to, air, food, water, or protection from heat, cold, or other elements of nature; or
- (2) the intentional or knowing failure of an owner to redeem an animal that has been impounded by or at the direction of the City within three (3) days after impoundment.

...

**Section 2:** That all ordinances of the City of Rowlett, Texas, in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed and all other ordinances of the City of Rowlett not in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 3:** That should any sentence, paragraph, subdivision, clause, phrase or section of this ordinance be adjudged or held to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole, or any part or provision hereof other than the part so decided to be invalid, illegal or unconstitutional, and shall not affect the validity of the Code of Ordinances as a whole.


**Section 4:** That any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions or terms of this ordinance shall be subject to the same penalty as provided for in the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rowlett, as heretofore amended, and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not to exceed the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each offense.

**Section 5:** That this ordinance shall take effect immediately from and after its passage and the publication of the caption, as the law and Charter in such cases provide.

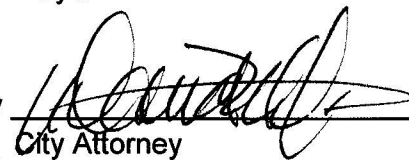
At a meeting of the City Council on January 7, 2014 this Ordinance be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes: 7** Mayor Gottel, Mayor Pro Tem Kilgore, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Gallops, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Dana-Bashian, Councilmember Pankratz and Councilmember Bobbitt

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Approved by   
Mayor

Date January 7, 2014

Approved to form by   
City Attorney

Date January 7, 2014

Certified by   
City Secretary

Date January 7, 2014

